

# PRESS RELEASE

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY FOR PROPERTY OWNERS TO AVOID SEWER LIENS**

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Public Works (DPW) is notifying private property owners by mail of delinquent sewer bills in an effort to avoid the placement of a lien on their property.

DPW is sending out 25,010 requests for payment today, totaling over \$1.77 million in unpaid sewer charges. This will be the last opportunity for property owners to keep a lien from being placed on their property, to prevent their sewer charges from being added to their next property tax bills, and to avoid additional administrative fees.

**Payments must be received by February 24, 2010 to avoid lien action. All payments should be sent to Indianapolis Water, the city's billing and collection agent, at P.O. Box 1990, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Payments may also be made in person at any ACE Check Cashing, Indianapolis Power and Light (IPL), or Citizens Gas locations.

Placing a lien on properties is the city's last resort in an effort to receive payment. The courts have determined that placing a lien on a property is an appropriate action for Indianapolis to pursue. Other collection methods for non-payment of sewer fees that could be exercised by the city on a regular basis include water service disconnection and legal action.

Sewer fees are used to pay for the operations and maintenance of the city's sewage treatment plants, sanitary and combined sewer collection systems as well as capital improvement projects, including the city's Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) and combined sewer overflow consent decree programs.

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